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Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 11:13 AM
To: Macaulay, Terry@DeltaCouncil; Nemeth, Karla@RESOURCES
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Subject: Delta water flow criteria and objectives

To interested parties, DSC and BDCP

At the recent meeting of the independent science Board charged with evaluating best available science with a Delta stewardship Council I came away with some questions regarding the presentation of flow criteria and objectives for the South Delta. The presentation made by the State water resources control Board included flow recommendations regarding the San Joaquin River and its upstream tributaries including the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced and others but did not include the Mokelumne River.

I understand that at some point there needs to be a differential between the North and South Delta what I disagree with is the point currently used by the State water resources control Board. The reason is all tributaries whose water flows are connected significantly to the pool of water existing in the South Delta are vital to its evaluation. The failure to adequately review the flows causing elevation changes in the water of the South Delta and West Delta are crucial in deciding the best method to solve water quality and fish migration issues.

My opinion is the ISB should be presented with options that include the Mokelumne flows and be allowed to decide whether it is the best science to be included or excluded as it was presented. My belief is if included then adaptive management can be better applied using the best science for fisheries and water quality objectives.

I would suggest that it is possible to model all Delta inflows at one time as the interconnectivity exists today, as these flow patterns are pretty well known. Is it possible to explore more or larger connections between the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and deltas to lessen or eliminate the reverse flows of the San Joaquin River? Channel improvements (enlargements) possibly to be modeled could be made at Snodgrass Slough as well as the channels surrounding Twitchell Island.

Since the unimpaired flows into any reservoir is difficult to document does it not make more sense to base additional flows to the Delta against the current standard releases from each reservoir with an equal percentage of increases? Noting a different scenario needs to be applied to New Melones and the Stanislaus River flows. The above mentioned modeling of interconnectivity can shed light on how much additional water releases need to come from the San Joaquin River and its tributaries if any.

I am sorry for bringing these suggestions belatedly into the process, but I continue to learn more daily about the process and potential remedies. It is better to take the time to make good decisions promoting the co- equal goals than to go down a long expensive road that may or may not enhance the Delta environment.
Regards, Jim